Julius Caesar and the American Revolution Integrated Assignments

As a conclusion to the unit on Revolution (our look at Julius Caesar and the American Revolution), you will have a choice as assignments to do in effort to demonstrate your understanding of the material presented in the unit. You can choose one of the assignments listed below, or create one your own with the approval of your ELA and American Studies teachers. The finished assignments are due on **Friday, November 4, 2011**. We are giving these to you now so that you can be thinking about them as you read the play and study the American Revolution. You will have class time at the end of the unit to work on these in class, however, the earlier that you get started on whatever assignment you choose, the better it will be. ***Because all of the sophomores are reading Julius Caesar and studying the American Revolution at the same time, you may work with your classmates regardless of their ELA or history class.*** Multiple groups may work on the same assignment and create a different product, but the number of people involved in the production must be limited to the maximum number given at the end of the assignment.

If you effectively complete the assignment, you will earn 25 points on the worst project grade that you handed in for BOTH your ELA and American Studies classes. If you do not complete the assignment, you will lose 10 points on the best project grade that you handed in for BOTH your ELA and American Studies classes.

The following is a list of potential Integrated Assignment ideas:

1. What would have happened if Caesar’s conspirators had written a “Declaration of Independence”? Write a “Declaration” for the conspirators. Create an alternate ending to Julius Caesar based on the idea that they have a “written” oath. The “act” that you create must be same number of lines as Act 5 of Julius Caesar. **May be done by one person.**
2. Write/perform/record a 3-5 page scene placing John Hancock with the conspirators focusing on the idea of an oral agreement versus a written one. Write it in iambic pentameter as Shakespeare did. **May be done by one person or by a group of up to 5.**
3. Write/perform/record a 3-5 page scene placing Brutus or Cassius in the Continental Congress focusing on the idea of an oral agreement versus a written one. Write it in iambic pentameter as Shakespeare did. **May be done by one person or by a group of up to 5.**
4. Conduct/perform a trial of Julius Caesar by the Continental Congress. Would they have wanted to become independent of Rome? **May be done in groups of no more than 6.**
5. Conduct/perform a trial of King George III by the leaders of the conspiracy. Would they have assassinated him? May **be done in groups of no more than 5.**
6. Write/perform/record a song about either the American Revolution or Julius Caesar. You must include quotes/lines from either the Declaration of Independence or the play in your lyric. Lyrics must be clean and appropriate. Here are some *examples* of song styles that you could use:

Pop – The Beatles - “Revolution” (music and lyrics at <http://www.safeshare.tv/w/ZAJLdwtYtw>)

Rap – DJ Jazzy Jeff and Fresh Prince “Parents Just Don’t Understand” (music and lyrics at <http://www.safeshare.tv/w/RMMSKtPeJh>)

Reggae – Bob Marley – “Get Up and Stand Up” (music at <http://www.safeshare.tv/w/FAQoguSHtU> and lyrics at <http://www.lyricsfreak.com/b/bob+marley/get+up+stand+up_20021743.html>)

Folk – Bob Dylan “The Times They Are A-Changin’” (music and lyrics at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vou4qUu5YY>)

Country – Dixie Chicks – “Not Ready to Make Nice” (music and lyrics at <http://www.safeshare.tv/w/fqaueMqznj>)

You may also do a web search for other protest songs/songs about revolution to get other ideas. **These may be done individually or in groups no larger than 4.** For some ideas about what your final production might look like, check out these videos about Antigone:

<http://www.safeshare.tv/w/bfNQkqLiEU>, <http://www.safeshare.tv/w/JUNvFYzKjl>, <http://www.safeshare.tv/w/xEDnlGGUcI>

1. Write/perform/record a panel talk show in the style of Phil Donahue/Oprah/Ellen in which you interview people from either the American Revolution or Julius Caesar about what is going on in their lives. Interviews should include important pieces of information and questions about their work. **These may be done in groups no larger than 4.** Here are some examples of what happened on those shows: Phil Donahue - <http://www.safeshare.tv/w/wgjCrKjCjs>, Oprah - <http://www.safeshare.tv/w/HqOQXQPYAG>, Ellen - <http://www.safeshare.tv/w/fDoqETJTlf>
2. Write/publish a newspaper describing the events of the assassination of Julius Caesar or any of the battles of the American Revolution. You must have at least 5 stories as part of your newspaper, 2 (1 from each side) as “straight news stories,” meaning things that you would find on the front page of the newspaper and answers the questions “who, what, when, where, why, how,” 2 features (1 from each side), which would be “human interest” type stories, and one opinion piece, in which one you takes a side on the assassination/battle. **These may be done in groups no larger than 5.** You can either print your newspaper out, or publish it on issuu.com in a sort of magazine format. Either form is acceptable.
3. Design/create/publish a board/review game that combines information from Julius Caesar and the American Revolution. **This may be done in groups no larger than 4.** This game should include rules and be ready to play when it is turned in.